DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

VOL. I NO. 21 OCTOBER 24th 1952 Price: 15 Pf., 5 c., 3 d

STORM TROOPS IN WEST GERMANY

Bavarian Minister Unmasks Shadow Army

An underground army staffed by former Wehrmacht officers and active nazis has been set up throughout West Germany, Dr Wilhelm Hoegner, Social Democratic Minister of the Interior in Bavaria, American Zone, disclosed on October 16th.

"The underground groups which have recently been exposed are connected with this secret army" Dr Hoegner stated. He was referring to the murder gang "Liquidation Inc." which was proved earlier this month to have been financed, armed and trained by the U.S.authorities in Germany, and which had prepared murder lists of leading Social Democrats, Christians and Communists.

Details of the underground army, which bears the semi-public name of "Storm Troop against Bolshevism" and the secret name of "German Home Guard", were given on October 17th by the "Nuernberger Nachrichten", respected West German liberal newspaper.

"This shadow army, to which the 'Technical Service of the Federation of German Youth' (Liquidation Inc.) also belonged, was constructed and subdivided on completely military lines" the "Nuernberger Nachrichten" stated.

"The order marked 'top secret', reference number 1/52 dated July 8th 1952 which is in our possession shows that the organisation is divided into areas, groups, subgroups and strong-points, and that the leader of each area has subordinates who deal with such matters as organisation, tactical manoevres, ... counter-espionage, ... communications."

The paper reported that persons joining the "Home Guard" had to sign a statement that they would keep absolutely secret all orders and actions of the organisation, even if they left it, and had to fill in a form with details of their military service, weapon training, and military decorations.

Order 8/52 of the "German Home Guard" issued by the 1c Section of Area 17 stated:

"The name German Home Guard may not be used, only the description 'Storm Troop against Bolshevism'."

Another order showed that the underground organisation was in the closest contact with the Bonn Government. This order, issued by the same section under the reference number 2/52 on May 26th 1952 stated:

"Responsible federal and provincial offices, such as for instance the Office for the Protec-

(cont. on p. 2)

HOW NAZI CAN YOU GET?

"I hope and pray that the moment will soon come when either I or some other American commander will turn this fine Air Base over to some German Wing Commander with the beginning of Germany's new Luftwaffe" said Colonel Robert Scott, United States Army Air Force, Commanding Officer of Fuerstenfeldbruck Air Base in West Germany, addressing German newspapermen on October 9th 1952.

"You saw first that the great threat to civilisation was to the east, with the Communist Soviet Union. I wish that we had had the foresight then in 1945 to understand that.

"I impatiently wait with you for the day when we will stand shoulder to shoulder as friends and brothers to resist the threat of Communism."

LIQUIDATION INC. MEETS MURDER INC. U. S. A.

"Dis guy is another exchange student from Liquidation Inc., West Germany. High Commissioner Donnelly recommends him for the advanced course."

A BRITISH CHRISTIAN IN BERLIN

By Reverend Edward Charles, *Vicar of Arlesey, Bedfordshire, England, who has been in Berlin attending the Conference of the East German Christian Democratic Union.*

Before I left England, I had a meeting with my Parochial Church Councillors, at which they gave me a large number of questions to put to fellow Christians in the German Democratic Republic.

At this meeting one of them said that he could not understand how there could be a Christian political party: indeed we in Great Britain have had no such thing since, perhaps, Cromwell's time, and we do well to be spared a "Christian" party in opposition to the working people.

The Christian Democratic Union of the German Democratic Republic I found to be quite the reverse of that. One of the most striking things about the Conference was the frequent appearance of groups of factory workers, farmers, post office workers, fishermen, miners, railwaymen, students and children, who pledged their party to work better and harder in the name of Christ.

I was told by delegates with whom I chatted in the intervals that 35 percent of the membership of the party comes from the ranks of the manual workers: this fact reminded me of the words of the late Dr. Temple that our Church of England has not yet caught up with the Industrial Revolution, and I was encouraged to find here a Christian body that was doing so.

At its last Conference at Meissen in 1951 the Christian Democratic Union produced 22 theses on Christian Realism. While working happily with both Marxists and Liberals in the common task of building up the new life of the Republic, its members are evidently deeply concerned to clarify and strengthen their Christian outlook.

This was proved by the numerous discussions on these theses by all party branches between the last conference and this. Several important amendments were made as the result of the constructive criticism of these branches and of foreign friends, including a group of English clergy, and these were accepted by the conference.

The picture of working men and women farmers and intellectuals, getting together to work out the implications of the old Faith in a new world was very stimulating to me.

Stimulating too were the speeches of the party leaders, whose every reference to our Master was loudly applauded. The tasks of such party leaders as Herr Georg Dertinger, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, are obviously very great and very exacting in these critical times. His remarks on the present international position of the German Democratic Republic were prefaced by a clear and forthright analysis of previous history from a Christian point of view, and as a result he was able to deal with the present dangerous situation in a calm and confident as well as firm and determined manner.

It was an encouraging exhibition of the Christian faith in action.

The warmth of the reception given by the Conference to the Polish and Czechoslovak delegates showed that here at least was a party determined to oppose those ideas of German re-expansion which, if an attempt were to be made to put them into action, would inevitably lead to a third world war and holocaust of humanity, in which we in England would, under present circumstances, be inevitably involved.

The idea of a "crusade" to "liberate" the East was fiercely disclaimed by many speakers. The only crusade they recognised was a crusade for peace and a full and happy life for all citizens of the Republic, and into that crusade they threw themselves with great enthusiasm.

It was mainly a young conference — the secretary of the credentials committee told us that nearly 60 percent of the delegates were under 45. This did not prevent them, however, from re-electing their experienced and much-loved Otto Nuscke, aged 69, as their chairman.

The obvious affection felt for their leaders could be clearly sensed, and also for such foreign friends as Father Plojhar, Minister of Health in the Czechoslovak Government, and Professor Hromadka of Prague University. Several speakers stressed the value of the experiences of the People's Democracies and the Soviet Union in building Socialism and a better life.

I personally found the warmth of the reception they gave to an undistinguished British Parish Priest most touching, both in the meeting and in friendly contacts outside. It helped me to realise that Christian brotherhood is a force far stronger than iron curtains or atom bombs.

(cont. from p. 1)

tion of the Constitution (the West German F.B.I., ed.) are kept informed about the activities of the Storm Troop."

An order signed "Becker" under the reference number DHS 5/17 by Section 1a in Fuerth on June 26th 1952 laid down that the command had ordered that training and instructional courses should be held every two weeks. At these training courses the latest orders should be passed on, military training should be given, military experiences gathered in the war should be exchanged, radio instruction should be given, and preparations made for breaking up left-wing meetings. "One of the most important tasks is to transmit, to those members who were not soldiers, our 'front-line spirit'."

"This shadow army obviously disposes of extensive financial means" the "Nuernberger Nachrichten" stated, "and under the leadership of former German Wehrmacht members is forming the cadre of a West German army."

One of the orders of the organisation showed that the German nationalists, who were building this shadow army with at least the toleration of the American authorities, intended it to be exclusively their weapon. The order stated:

"Members of the Labour Service Units (Para-military units openly raised by the American British and French Occupation Powers, ed.) are not be recruited, since in case of crisis they could not serve two masters."

"One thing becomes plainer and plainer" the newspaper stated. "Official quarters know far more about the activities of secret organisations in the Federal Republic than they admit. Details already published have made the public very uneasy, but what has become public is only a fraction of what is actually going on in the jungle of the political underworld which is making itself at home in the Federal Republic."

PEACE MEET IN BERLIN

An international conference to secure a peaceful solution of the German problem is to be held in East and West Berlin from November 8th to 10th.

The conference was originally to have been held in Stockholm, but the Swedish autorities refused visas to a number of delegates.

The preparatory committee therefore decided that the conference be held in Berlin.

Among the many leading religious and cultural figures from West Berlin who endorsed this decision was Pastor Martin Niemoeller, Protestant leader.

Mrs. J. Solley, wife of former Labour M. P. L. J. Solley, was the British representative.

"Western Defence" on the Volga?

Ridgway Wants to Go East

Atlantic Pact Commander in Chief General Ridgway wants to "defend" western Europe "farther to the East" with the help of West German soldiers, he told a banquet in London on October 14th.

"We need German forces in our collective effort" General Ridgway stated. "German ground units already located well forward would obviously be a great asset. Moreover, German participation would permit our defending farther to the east."

Commentators in Berlin stated that since there had been numerous previous western announcements that the west would be "defended" on the Elbe (eastern frontier of West Germany), General Ridgway obviously wished to "advance defensively" to the Oder (frontier of Poland), or even the Volga, in central Russia.

Threats and War Talk from Western Christian Democrats

The Minister for All-German Affairs in Bonn, Jakob Kaiser, called for the German annexation of part of Poland at the Congress of the West German Union in West Berlin on October 18th and 19th. "The Germans have a right to homes in the territory east of the Oder and Neisse Rivers" he said. "The driving force of the policy of the Federal Government is the liberation of the inhabitants of the Soviet Zone."

West German Chancellor Adenauer, who was re-elected Chairman of the party, joined in the aggressive chorus with the words: "We shall free Berlin from its encirclement, and with God's help free the Germans living behind the iron curtain."

WEST GERMAN UNIONISTS SACK ADENAUER'S BUDDIES

The delegates of six million West German trade unionists, meeting in West Berlin in October, inflicted a crushing defeat on the extreme right-wing leadership of the West German Trade Union Federation by failing to re-elect the main supporters of Adenauer's remilitarisation to office.

Christian Fette, former chairman and Hans vom Hoff and Erich Buehrig, executive members, were thrown from the board. They had all been outstanding and outspoken supporters of a new West German army.

New chairman, Walter Freitag, Social Democratic member of the West German parliament, metal workers' official and former concentration camp inmate refrained from making any pronouncement on foreign policy at the Congress, but he promised his supporters a hard-hitting campaign on the industrial front.

The East Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland", commenting on the change in leadership, stated:

"This shows all West German unionists what can be done when the masses work together. This must be a signal for a struggle in the factories and unions to see that not only the representatives of Adenauer are thrown out of the leadership, but that the whole policy of the German Trade Union Federation is radically changed."

EAST GERMAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CALL FOR PEACE

An appeal for peace was addressed to Christians throughout the world by the Party Congress of the East German Christian Christian Democratic Union, which met in Berlin from October 16th to 18th.

The appeal stated in part:

"We call to the Christians of the German Democratic Republic"

"The Christian Democratic Union is the organisation of the Christians of our Republic who love peace and who wish to cooperate in the work of building Socialism. We call upon the Christians to work whole-heartedly for the creation of a Socialist order, and we help them to complete the tasks to be done. Join with us, build with us"

"We call to the Christians in West Germany!"

"You have a most important task in the struggle of our people for unity and peace. The Christian Democratic Union in West Germany, under Adenauer's leadership, has become untrue to its tenets, and tries to convert West Germany into an 'integrated' part of the rump of Europe. This Europe is nothing more nor less than the starting point for an American attack on the countries of peace.

This is described as the 'salvation of the Christian west', which is an irresponsible misuse of Christian feelings, since what is really meant is the salvation of imperialist positions of power."

"It is vital for all Christians to frustrate this attempt. This can only be accomplished when the Christians join together with all friends of peace in overwhelming unity opposed to the forces of catastrophe."

"We believe deeply that German can be saved by the efforts of the defenders of peace,and thus achieve a good life and certainty regarding the future.

"We call to the Christians in the western world!"

"We know of the great efforts made by outstanding Christian leaders in the western world to save peace by fighting for it. We proudly count such persons as our friends"

"This is a promising start, but in addition millions of Christians in the western world must marke up their minds to join the ranks of peace."

"In the past centuries the Christians have often failed at decisive moments. Today they have a great chance to do a deed of historic significance."

"We greet our Christians friends in the countries of peace!"

"You were ahead of us in taking a clear decision and in responsible action. You prove daily not only the possibility but also the necessity of Christians cooperating in the work of building Socialism. We are thankful to you for the lessons you have taught us, and we shall make it our duty to follow the example which you have set."

"We choose life!"

"Today the decision lies between life and death; the question is 'To be, or not to be'. We Christians, in final responsibility to God, choose life. This decision is taken out of a sense of responsibility for our neighbours, for peace, for the unity of our homeland, and for Socialism."

WHAT IS THE B. D. J.?

More News of "Liquidation Inc."

BDJ are the initials for the name "Bund Deutsche Jugend" or Federation of German Youth, an American financed murder gang in West Germany.

Activities of the murder gang came to light on October 8th, when Prime Minister Zinn, Social Democratic head of the administration of Hessen Province, announced that he had proof that the "Technical Organisation" of the BDJ was training with American weapons and support to "liquidate" hundreds of Socialists, trade unionists Communists, and peace-workers in West Germany. (Full details of Zinn's revelations were given in the special number of GERMAN REPORT dated October 15th.)

The BDJ is headed by a weedy young man named Paul Lueth. Lueth first came to public attention in 1947, when as a young student, he published a "History of German Literature". It was one of the first new German books to appear after the war, and created a minor sensation, until noted critic Paul Rilla pointed out that whole chapters of the book had been copied word for word from previous histories. Recent police investigations have brought to light the fact that Lueth was forging doctors' prescriptions for drugs during the same period.

Nothing more of Lueth was heard, after this flagrant plagiarism, until summer 1950, when a new organisation, the Federation of German Youth, suddenly appeared in West Germany. Unlike other youth groups the BDJ was from the very start equipped with ample funds with which to spread its programme of "discipline and western democracy".

Wherever friends of peace tried to hold a meeting in West Germany members of the BDJ were inclined to appear, attacking speakers and smashing furniture. Adenauer and members of his cabinet sent congratulatory messages to the leaders and the members of the organisation, and huge sums flowed into its coffers both from American and from West German Government sources.

The central office of the BDJ is situated at 13 Feldberg Strasse, Frankfurt, and there is a luxuriously equipped branch in West Berlin.

Sponsors of the BDJ, apart from the American and German governments are various industrial groups, and according to one report the sum of one million marks was granted to the "youth organisation" by Coca Cola Ltd.

Here are just a few reports on the activities of the group in the past year:

A group of rowdies, some of whom were identified as members of the BDJ beat and badly injured Shop Steward Wojciech, from the "Gottfried Wilhelm" pit in Essen.

In August 1952 members of the BDJ broke into the Bonn offices of the Communist Party and wrecked them. In previous months they had smashed up similar offices in Bremen, Hamburg and Wuppertal.

SIEG HEIL!

"They are false Christians who say that Christians must not kill . . . We'll reconquer Breslau and Koenigsberg . . . We are against any kind of planned economy . . . Denazification was the biggest crime and swindle against the German people. The U. S. is our guarantee of victory; the Americans are the Romans of our century . . . We shall go on fighting to vindicate the honour of the Waffen-S. S."

Speech by leader of the American-financed Federation of German Youth (B.D.J.) quoted in the London "News Statesman and Nation", October 18th 1952.

The activities of the BDJ have not been confined to West Germany. Trials in the German Democratic Republic, early this year brought evidence that the American-financed gang had organised agents in East Germany too.

On May 8th the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic passed long prison sentences on fifteen members of a sabotage group which called itself "The Bloodhounds", who were found guilty of such crimes as the derailment of freight trains, and attempts to blow up a blast furnace. In the course of the trial the accused confessed that they had been in contact with the West Berlin office of the BDJ, and that they had received instructions, money and equipment from this office.

Addressing members of this sabotage group in West Berlin, Paul Lueth had spoken of the "four degrees" of illegal "resistance" work: first the collection of espionage material; secondly the organisation of sabotage; thirdly diversionary work inside democratic organisations; and fourthly the formation of armed bands.

Documents were found in the possession of the members of "Bloodhounds" confirming that they were engaged in ascertaining "emergency landing grounds for American airborne troops" in case of war.

"Americans Back Gangs"

— Reuter Report

On October 12th Reuters Correspondent in West Berlin reported:

"Reports this week of an American-backed anti-Communist movement in West Germany, said to have kept a "political liquidation" list, have seriously embarrassed American officials here, one of them admitted to-day.

"For some time, American and other Western agencies have been giving moral and material backing to anti-Communist groups in West Berlin.

"On his first visit to Berlin recently, U. S. High Commissioner Walter J, Donnelly was confronted with a Soviet demand that these organisations be closed down.

"General Vassily Chuikov, Soviet Army and Control Commission chief, termed the groups "spying and terrorist" organisations whose chief aim was sabotage and subversion in East Germany.

"Mr Donnelly promised to investigate, but said he thought the charges ill-founded. But now comes the revelation by the State Premier of Hessen, Herr August Zinn, of an organisation alleged to have planned to execute certain left-wing politicians "in the event of war."

The West Berlin anti-Communist organisations grew up shortly after the split of Berlin in 1948. To-day there are over 30 of them, the majority in the U. S. Sector.

"Many of the groups have admitted close contacts with Western intelligence agencies, and with the main West German political parties.

"Support comes from a variety of sources. Although there is no open United States financial support, U. S. officials publicly praise the work of many of these groups.

"Direct financial support comes from private groups in the United States and Western Europe. Subsidies, in the form of cheap accommodation, cheap printing facilities and translation services, are said to be supplied on recommendation of local U. S. officials."

MR GARWOOD AND THE GANGSTERS

Was The Colonel "Rubbed Out"?

Sterling Garwood, an official of the American Counter Intelligence Corps, was the man who financed and helped to train the gangsters of "Liquidation Inc.", the West German news magazine "Spiegel" stated on October 15th.

In August 1951, according to the magazine, Mr. Garwood, together with his wife and two children, rented a house in the little village of Steinbach, in the Odenwald Forest, American Zone. Steinbach lies only a mile or two from Waldmichelbach, where the murder gang held its training course.

A reporter from the "Spiegel" who visited the now deserted house in Waldmichelbach where the training went on found numerous empty shells and cartridge boxes with the inscription "Winchester Super Speed, 22 Long Rifle. Made in U. S. A."

He learned from witnesses that the mysterious Mr. Garwood had visited the training centre daily, and had supplied the trainees with silenced pistols, a 4 inch Soviet grenade thrower, and various types of fuses.

The people of the village reported that a group of between ten and fourteen people arrived at the gang's house every week. They described them as mostly "typical officers, aged between 35 and 50."

Three times during the summer of 1951, according to the "Spiegel" report, participants of the training course were issued with American uniforms and taken to the big U. S. training centre at Grafenwoehr. Here they were given special instruction in the use of explosives for sabotage purposes.

"Liquidation Inc." received American assistance of up to 50,000 marks monthly. The wages of the staff at the Waldmichelbach training centre were paid promptly from the usual American sources on September 1st.

Most sensational passage in the disclosures in the "Spiegel" is the statement that a former German officer, a colonel who took part in the training course at Waldmichelbach, had been murdered by his comrades, who claimed that he "believed in East-West understanding".

The "Spiegel" report continued: "A Christian Democratic member of Parliament learned about this, and made enquiries with the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (a sort of West German F. B. I., ed.). The facts of the case were confirmed, and he was told that investigations into the case had been suspended on American orders. The Americans had stated that the case concerned only the Americans, since the house where the incident had taken place was extraterritorial, since it was hired by the Americans."

"Psychological" warfare

"No Government official will admit it, but we are training men to be spies, saboteurs, specialists in the tougher forms of psychological warfare.

"They are being taught to slip into the Russian fabric on their own to do some unravelling. They learn to blow bridges, railroad trains and war plants . . .

"One of our men can, for another example, walk up to a key building in a hostile country and stick some gooey plastic material on the wall . . . In a few hours, or if he wishes, in a few days, the building will blow up."

"Nation's Business" April 1952, Published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

Niemoeller on Murder List

Pastor Martin Niemoeller, leading West German Protestant, was on the murder list prepared by "Liquidation Inc.",according to newspaper reports in West Germany.

Others on the list included former Chancellor Josef Wirth, a leading Catholic politician; Dr Heinemann, Protestant lay leader and former Minister of the Interior, and former Social Democratic Lord Mayor Wilhelm Elfes.

"Times" Fakes a Story

The London "Times" Bonn Correspondent, a certain Mr Freeman, has descended to deliberate falsification in an effort to confuse the issue in the case of the murder gang "Liquidation Inc."

In the "Times" dated October 18th he stated that BDJ leader Paul Lueth, dealt with above, "has been a paying member of the Communist Party since 1945."

Paul Lueth himself has stated that he joined the Communist Party in 1945, but left it again soon afterwards. "I am not in the position to say why I did this" he stated, obviously implying that he joined the Party in order to spy upon it.

Even the most reactionary West German papers have not implied that Lueth was member of the Communist Party after 1947. That fake was left to Mr Freeman.

"I WAS A MEMBER OF LIQUIDATION INC.'

By X. Y. Z.

(This report, written by one of the former members of "Liquidation Inc." was printed in the Social Democratic newspaper "Hamburger Echo" on October 11th.)

I was brought into contact with an illegal organisation at the end of 1951. At a lecture Dr. H. who also called himself Dr. T. explained that the Germans stood on the side of the West, and would do everything to hinder the Red Army if it marched in. The Americans had provided weapons for this purpose which were hidden in well concealed dumps.

After I had filled out a form, and was told that I should be "rubbed out if I squealed", I was officially sworn into the organisation together with a group of others. We were sworn in on a copy of "Mein Kampf".

On April 14th this year I was asked to take part in a course, and given a railway ticket to Heppenheim. There we were picked up as arranged, and taken in a large Mercedes car to Waldmichelbach in the Odenwald Forest.

Twelve people were taking part in the course, and the only two young people were myself and another boy from Hamburg. All the others were high-ranking officers, including a number of holders of the "Knight's Cross".

A good-looking young man held lectures showing us that the policy of the Social Democrats and other such parties was quite wrong. We need not worry about ourselves, since we were now under the protection of the American occupation authorities.

We were trained in the use of pistols in the garage. The pistols had silencers. There was theoretical work on the sand table, and written exercises in sabotage work. Other training was given in the use of American-style maps, fuses and so on.

On the day before the end of the course a man whom we did not know appeared and told us in a speech that we should attach ourselves to the Americans and they would support us. We should not regard the Americans as our bosses but as our big brothers.

I SAW ART IN THE FOUNDRY

By Ruth Post

The authoress of this article is the American wife of a German antifascist writer, who has been living in East Germany since 1948.

The first time I ever saw a Steel Mill was last year here in East Germany, together with a Chilean painter then visiting the German Democratic Republic. His program for a weeks' tour of the main cities, on which I accompanied him, included Art Schools, galleries, rebuilding projects, museums and the giant Steel Works at Riesa, most important steel production center in East Germany.

I am aware, as an American, how, to many, this combination of art centers and factory life can seem incongruous on the planned schedule of a distinguished visiting artist. But I have been long enough here to know, as every one else does, how unquestionably right and logical this combination is.

BOXER DIRECTOR

Of course, in our case, it turned out to be more than right, because the director of the Riesa Works, Herr Friedemann, a good-humoured, powerfully built one-time heavyweight boxer who learned his Spanish fighting Fascists in Spain, took an immediate liking for my Chilean artist friend, and vice versa. Both were particularly happy to be talking Spanish again, and the quick understanding and smiling warmth between them was pure pleasure to watch.

Unusual, I admit, but yet indicative of the increasing contact and understanding here between people who work in factories and people who write, make music, act, paint pictures or dance. After all, the bulk of the students at the Art schools are the sons and daughters of peasants and workers. Besides, in any factory in the Republic, one finds a "Cultural Director" whose duties, aside from general supervision of hospitals, rest homes and vacation places for the workers, include as well the organizing of concerts, lectures and varied entertainment for the workers. The material for such entertainments is very often found in the ranks of the workers themselves.

On the other hand, and especially after having been through the factory and witnessed the immensity and variety of the machines, the men who work them, with their peculiarly personal relation to their machines and the tools they use, their earnest, self-assured faces glowing red from the reflected light of the monstrous ovens, — I cannot imagine any serious painter in his right mind not wanting to at least try it.

But my memories of Riesa last year include more than a series of wonderful pictures. I remember, for instance, a tall, robust young woman who was running what to me was an impossibly complicated machine from which flew occasional sparks. She emanated competence and pride. And another particularly merry, middle-aged worker who had just returned from a two-weeks vacation trip to Hungary. "What was it like?" we asked. He grinned and kept wagging his head from side to side: "The wines", he said, "What wines!"

Last week I visited Riesa for the second time. My husband, together with another writer, have volunteered to "take over" Riesa, in accordance with a recent plan to still further unite intellectuals and factory workers. This was the first of a series of visits they, and other artists, will make to the factory. I went along out of curiosity as well as for the ride.

On our arrival we were taken directly to Herr Friedemann. We found him in his office at his desk, his enormous frame hunched over a book. (A quick peek later, during the subsequent discussions in German, showed me a well-thumbed and much underlined copy of Karl Marx's "Capital".)

The meeting with the workers, it was decided, would take place after the mid-day break.

Meanwhile my husband and his colleague settled down with the cultural directors of Riesa to discuss and prepare a program of events for the coming months. Herr Friedemann, guessing perhaps I might be bored, drove me to his home. Here I met his wife, a gentle, soft-voiced woman whom we found in the kitchen busily engaged in managing her own little factory: the putting up of great quantities of pears, peaches and tomatoes out of her own garden. I asked, in between bites on a luscious peach, if she didn't find it lonely, living in a small factory town. "I'm used to it now", answered Frau Friedemann. "Actually there's quite a lot going on, and besides, there are always visitors, and I like that."

DINNER WITH DOCTORS

My husband and his friend arrived some time later and we were asked to stay to dinner. Herr Friedemann, meanwhile, had collected three more guests, all doctors, one of them the head of a Leipzig hospital who had been asked to confer on details to do with the factory's Night Sanatorium. The Night Sanatorium, I learned during dinner, exists for workers who, though not actually ill, are nevertheless under observation and are recommended by the doctors to spend their evenings and nights at the Sanatorium for periods of from two to three weeks. I also learned that the men work in only half hour shifts, e. g. each half hours' work is followed by a half hours pause, or rest period. West German steel workers work one hour and rest a half hour.

Later, in the big mess-hall of the factory, the workers, finished with dinner, were standing around in groups, smoking and discussing, rather heatedly, whether or not they wanted to give up some Sunday time towards the Five Year Plan. I like German workers, and these in particular, with their caps set jauntily over their humourous, dirt-stained, intelligent faces, seemed to me rather typical. During the next hour, watching them while my husband spoke, and during the animated discussions that occured directly

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

Subscription rates: 4 German marks. 8/—sterling, $ 1.25 per annum or pro rata, post free.

In Democratic Germany subs. taken at all post offices. Single copies may be purchased at the international newsstands.

British subs. to:
Collet's Subscription Dept.,
40 Great Russell St.,
London W. C. 1

U. S. subs. to:
National Guardian,
17 Murray St.,
New York 7.

All other communications to:
Democratic German Report,
Friedrichstrasse 167/III,
Berlin W 8,
Germany.

All material in this paper may be freely reprinted. Voucher copies of reprints appreciated.

afterwards, I saw them as typical, not only of German workers, but of the new Germany which is growing up.

A few years ago it would have struck them as simply funny, the suggestion that they read, criticise and discuss books, with the authors themselves; or that sufficiently talented members among them should further their talents and should themselves have the chance to paint, write or be musicians if they preferred. These proposals, and others, were met with a new kind of expression, — no longer astonishment, or even curiosity, but a deep and obviously sincere interest, — an interest due, at least in part, to the fact that now much of what is written, painted or sung concerns themselves, and reflects the lives, loves and problems of their own class, — and that from their class has sprung many of the best of the new writers and artists of today.

And during the discussion concerned with the efforts of the German Democratic Republic to unite Germany and Germans for the future peace of Europe and the world, I saw in the majority of their faces much more than serious interest: it was the look of men who know what war and suffering is, and who work and hope desperately for peace. But there was an added confidence and determination in their faces which showed clearly to what extent they would go to defend not only their factories, and the Republic they have helped to build, but their own growing freedom and dignity as working men.

Four Years Jail for stopping destruction

An American military court in Regensburg has sent an 18 year old West German to prison for four years for cementing up a demolition chamber, constructed on American orders in a Regensburg railway bridge.

The young man, Hermann Kolbeck, was charged with "conspiracy against the U. S. Forces."

In many parts of West Germany patriots have blocked demolition chambers which the Americans have prepared so that they can blow up key bridges in case of war.

Criminal Freed

In 1948 a British Military Court sentenced Otto Amelung to death for murdering concentration camp prisoners. The sentence was later reduced to 20 years imprisonment, and Amelung has now been released by the British authorities from Werl prison.

Readers' Letters

HATE & PRAISE?

"...I thought that Ruth Post's two articles (GERMAN REPORT Nos. 14 & 15) struck just the right note of sincerity and style. I think you ought to have far more such articles since they would appeal to just the very sort of person (shall we say 'neutrals' like myself) that need informing about the simple facts of existence in various parts of the world in order to form a true impression of what is going on.

"I am sure that there is a large block of English-speaking people of the sort that may tire rather easily of the stock phrases of hate or praise that are reiterated in GERMAN REPORT, but who don't reject or ignore such papers just because they come from the east. They look upon them to provide news otherwise unobtainable, unprinted or distorted, and would probably read such news more readily if in the more familiar quieter style of Ruth Post, or of most of your Notebook."

S. H., Nyasaland, Africa.

This is the sort of letter which helps us to know that GERMAN REPORT is read and appreciated in nearly every country in the world — 77 countries were on our subscription list at the latest count. Please tell us what you like and what you dislike. If we appear to use "stock phrases of hate or praise" it is possibly because the editor has the odd and old-fashioned idea that one should call a gang organised to carry out murder simply "murder gang", and not something nice and cosy like "pacification unit."

FULL-BLOWN LIE

"The magazine 'Labour Teacher', quarterly organ of the National Association of Labour Teachers has published the following letter:

> 'We who live in the middle of the Russian Zone have no illusions about what the Stalinists do to men, women and children who incur their displeasure; the children in the concentration camps not far from Berlin have been dying off since 1945. Trevor Davis, Berlin.'

"This looks uncommonly like a cold war item."

C. D., London S. E. 3., England

This is of course a full-blown lie. There are no "concentration camps" of any type in the German Democratic Republic, and the last internment camps, in which active nazis were interned after the end of the war, were closed down nearly three years ago.

If Mr. Trevor Davis is not simply making things up, he is possibly referring to the fact that in May and June 1945, when the ruins of Berlin were still smoking, a number of 15, 16 and 17 year old adolescents, members of the Hitler Youth, were found to be organising "Werewolf" groups and were promptly interned. They have long since become useful, hard-working members of society.

Mr. Davis, who apparently lives in West Berlin, might do better to look at what is happening to the youth of the three western sectors of the city who have almost no hope of getting a job when they leave school, and who are ready prey for recruitment by neo-fascist sabotage and spy groups.

BRICKBATS

"You are really wasting effort on me... I wouldn't live in a country in which I didn't have confidence. Though we make plenty of mistakes we haven't produced a Hitler yet... Why can't a country quit being a hell-raiser, as Germany has been?"

Jettie Felps
Burnet, Texas, U. S. A.

(We were trying to tell you how at least half a country had quit being a hell-raiser, but you were shouting so hard you could not hear, Miss Felps.)

"I and those whom I represent desire to have as much information as possible about what is really going on in the world... Please take my name off your mailing list."

Clara D. Craig
Spelman College
Atlanta, Georgia, U. S. A.

"Discontinue sending me GERMAN REPORT right away. I hope, for your and my feelings, that I won't have to write a second time."

Peter Steffens
Balliol College
Oxford, England

(This letter almost tempted us to go on sending the paper, just to see what really would happen to our feelings.)

THIS IS WHERE WE CAME IN

The West German stocking firm of Otto Schoenfisch, Bad Woerishofen, in a circular advertising letter sent to thousands of addresses in West Germany, states:
"To answer in advance a question which is often raised we must state this is not a Jewish firm."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

A recent letter from Liverpool has drawn my attention to an aspect of life in Berlin which I have not previously commented upon. The letter stated:

"I was sorry to find some friends here who thought that you were kidnapped and writing under duress."

It is clear that I must fulfil a long-felt want, and describe exactly how one edits a magazine under duress.

Torn from Bed

Here is the drill. In the gray of dawn I am dragged from my cell by brutal jack-booted thugs who chain me hand and foot and toss me into the back of a waiting lorry. Together with the editors of the "Stamp-Collector's Weekly", the "Berlin Allotment-Holder" and a number of other periodicals, all similarly shackled, we are driven (mostly through deep snow) to a mysterious grey building.

Here we are blind-folded and hurried to separate rooms, where shaven-skulled suave individuals, concealing an ice-cold fanaticism under a surface veneer which could almost be called charm, hand us our assignments for the day.

"Invent some quotations from the 'New York Times', make up a story about the Americans arming gangsters in West Germany, think up a piece saying that prices are going down in East Germany" says my personal inquisitor.

I point out to him that genuine quotations from the "New York Times" are quite damning enough; that West German Prime Ministers and the British Reuter newsagency have given full details about American armed murder gangs; and that I know prices are going down because things cost less in the shops.

Asiatic Drags

But all to no avail. The inquisitor injects mysterious central Asiatic drugs into my arm, and when the effects begin to wear off he beats me with a knout.

Readers who want further details of what it is like are advised to read the works of Arthur Koestler, George Orwell, et al.

•

But to be quite serious, the idea of trying to make someone edit a magazine under duress, particularly in a city like Berlin, where a short streetcar ride takes you through the "iron curtain", is just ludicrous.

Just for the record, I live in a block of flats in a normal East Berlin street. Every morning I get into my own car and drive myself to my office on the Friedrich Strasse, right bang in the middle of Berlin. By leaning out over the balcony of my office I can actually see into the American sector of the city, which begins an few blocks south.

If I wanted to "escape" from my supposed duress, I could either hop into my car and drive there in about two minutes; take the underground railway and ride two stations in about seven minutes; or walk the distance in about ten minutes.

REFUGEES AND ALL THAT

"A large proportion . . . of the refugees seeking asylum in West Berlin . . . are Protestants from Eastern Germany."

"Manchester Guardian", October 16th 1952

And the prison population of Great Britain in 1952 numbered many thousands; a large proportion of them were members of the Church of England.

Four men from the British Broadcasting Corporation who dropped in on me in my office a few weeks ago are just some of the many dozens who could testify that I am not chained to my desk.

None of this will probably convince the "duress" gang. "He got a double shot of that Tibetan dope before he wrote this column" I can hear them muttering to each other.

"Times" Standards

I hope that readers are not getting bored with my efforts to improve the reporting standards of the London "Times". Mr. Caminada, the "Times" correspondent in Berlin, appears to have gone on leave, but his record for inaccuracy is being finely maintained by Mr. Freeman, his collegue in Bonn, who is providing long-distance coverage of the German capital in the meantime. (Incidentally this is rather as if the main correspondent in Britain of a leading French newspaper sat in Chester or Carlisle instead of London.)

In the London "Times" of October 8th Mr. Freeman came through with two fine inaccuracies, either of which would lead to the firing of a junior reporter on any self-respecting local newspaper. He described the well known Free German Youth movement as the "Free Democratic Youth", and named "Mr. Semyonov . . . Ambassador to the East German Republic."

The Soviet Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic is named I. I. Iiyichov.

Phoney Incident

Once again on October 8th there was an "incident" in the air corridor leading to West Berlin from West Germany. You probably read an excited account of the incident in your paper, with a headline about "Soviet Jet Fires on U. S. Plane".

A Soviet note of protest on the next day made plain that the U. S. machine had flown for a long period outside the air corridor stipulated in a four power agreement, and that Soviet fighters had signalled to the American plane to land.

The interesting point about the story is this. An Associated Press interview with one of the pilots on the day of the incident contained the following paragraph:

"Capt. Peterson said that the Soviet jets could have been signalling 'for us to come in and land'."

But this simple sentence destroyed the whole of the rest of the sensational story, so most newspapers very discretely omitted it.

Funny Story?

The following story is going the rounds of West German newspapers:

A car driver rushes up to garage in East Berlin. "I need a mechanic immediately" he says.

"I have no one here" says the garage owner.

"But I must have one, I have four cabinet ministers in my car, and it has broken down on the way to a meeting with the President."

"That's different" says the garage owner. "Here's a bag of tools. One of the gentleman is sure to be a mechanic."

At this point you are expected to burst out laughing. Fancy a mechanic being a member of the Government! Just for interest I have tried out the story on a number of people here in East Germany. They have all looked blank and said: "Is that all?" when I reached the last line.

They happened to be proud of the fact that in the new sort of state built up here it is possible for the President to be a carpenter, and for miners, metal workers, and engineers to run the government.

Edited and published fortnightly by John Peet, Democratic German Report, Friedrichstrasse 167/III Berlin W 8, Telephone: 22 62 68. Printed in Germany by (36). Veröffentlicht unter der Lizenz-Nr. 752 des Amtes für Information der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.